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character. Mr. Allen, who accompanied us, has probably described the nests and eggs, ere this, so I will not go into details. — W. HOFFMAN, M.D.

GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

ON THE ORDER AMBLYPODA. — Prof. Cope recently read a paper on the structure of the feet of Bathmodon, showing that they resembled in many points those of the Elephants but differed in others. He finds five toes on each foot, which are very short and furnished with small transverse hoofs. The bones of the carpus resemble closely those of Toxodontia. In the hind foot the arrangement is like that of the Elephants except that the navicular bone is withdrawn to the outer side so as to bring the cuboid and one cuneiform bone into contact with the astragalus. On the characters thus ascertained he based the definition of a new order of mammals. The *Amblypoda* which presents two sub-orders, the Pantodonta represented by Bathmodon, and the Dinocerata represented by Uintatherium.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

PERFORATION OF THE HUMERUS CONJOINED WITH PLATYCNEMISM. — Associated with that extreme development of platycnemism discovered by the writer, some years ago, in the ancient mounds on the Detroit and Rouge Rivers, Michigan, he has found the perforation of the humerus. Allusion is made to that peculiarity of the arm bone in which is presented a communication of the two fossæ at its lower end. It is difficult to arrive at the exact amount of the percentage to which this prevails in these mounds; though there can be little doubt that at least 50 per cent. of the humeri have this characteristic. This is of interest as being in excess of that from the mounds in other parts of the country, where it is calculated as being only 31 per cent. It is a characteristic which, significantly enough, exists in the ape, pertains to the negro in a large degree, while it is very rarely encountered in any of the white races.

In a letter received last year from Prof. Busk, F. R. S., he attaches importance to the writer's discovery of this conformation of the humerus being a peculiarity of platycnemic man, and states

that he does not think such a coincidence has been noticed elsewhere. At any rate it has not been so absolutely established heretofore.

Transitional states of the characteristic, if they may be so called, are also seen in the Rouge River mound; that is, instances in which the communication between the fossæ is not quite completed, the dividing wall being reduced, in some cases to a very thin partition, almost transparent. Even where the perforation is accomplished, there is a great variation in the size of the aperture. — HENRY GILLMAN, *Detroit, Michigan*.

M I C R O S C O P Y .

ATLAS DER DIATOMACEEN KUNDE.—By Adolf Schmidt, assisted by Gründler, Grunow, Janesch, Weissflog and Witt. Publishing in parts, each with four plates. To be completed in from twenty-five to thirty parts. Three parts of this magnificent work have been received. Each plate contains from fifteen to forty figures. The plates are from photographs of original drawings, reproduced by some one of the processes for copying photographs. It is said that nine thousand drawings have been prepared for the work. Size of the plates, fourteen by nine and one-half inches.

It seems to be the aim of the editors to give every known variation of each species of Diatom. For example, plate seven has forty variations of the type *Navicula Smithii* Breb. = *N. elliptica* W. S. Other genera and species are treated in the same manner. Two plates with eighty-nine figures are devoted entirely to the panduriform *Navicula*. The editors are the most renowned students of this department of natural history in Germany, and the work will be indispensable to all workers in this country, to whom the writings of the German diatomists have been almost inaccessible, scattered as they are among the German periodicals, while for the bibliomaniac it will supply one of the great books of the age. — C. S.

MEASUREMENT OF MÖLLER'S PROBE PLATTE.¹—*Mr. A. F. Dod, Secretary of the Memphis Microscopical Society, Memphis, Tennessee.* Dear Sir: I have this day finished the measurement of your probe-platte, No. 586. The first thirteen were measured on the evening of March twenty-ninth, by lamp-light; the rest

¹ Read before the Memphis Microscopical Society, April 15, 1875.